



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board  
Cochise Regional Partnership Council

## WORKGROUP

### Call to Order/Introductions

The workgroup meeting of the First Things First – Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on September 15, 2009 at approximately 1:00 p.m. at the Sierra Vista Public Library, 2600 East Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

#### Members Present:

Jane Strain, Dave Howe, Ginger Ryan, Renae Humburg, Vaira Harik, Evelyn Whitmer, Del Cabarga, Melodi Polach and Ana Bae-Limb

#### Members Absent:

Mary Sue Houser and Nancy-Jean Welker

#### Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Janette Guerra, Priscilla Whitlock-Coates and Cindi Alva

Chair Jane Strain welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

### Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

### Building the System

Regional Coordinator Melissa Avant provided several handouts to the workgroup for review, via email, prior to the meeting. Ms. Avant reviewed the Preparing for the SFY11 Regional Funding Plan handout, including the steps necessary in preparing the funding plan: Step 1 – Reviewing information and decisions; Step 2 – Defining the plan; Step 3 – Preparing the plan.

Ms. Avant reviewed the workgroup suggestions handout from July 13, 2009. The workgroup identified gaps based on the Needs & Assets Report. Identified gaps included: Early Literacy, Oral Health, Developmental Screenings, and Compensation for High Quality Childcare.

Ms. Avant then reviewed the Building the System (Identifying Needs & Assets – Linking Needs to Strategies) handout and explained the Early Childhood Systems Model and the Pyramid Model that the state will be using. Ms. Avant explained where current strategies fall within the pyramid.

### Discussion of Fiscal Year 2011 Allocations

The workgroup began discussions for the FY2011 Funding Plan. Options discussed included: 1) Continuing to fund existing strategies 2) Adding money to existing strategies 3) Forming new strategies or 4) Discontinuing existing strategies.

The workgroup reviewed the current regional allocation and discussed the proposed allocation for FY2011. Per the workgroup's request, Ms. Avant went over the remaining budget allocation for each existing strategy.

The workgroup discussed T.E.A.C.H. and the barriers surrounding recruitment into the program. Ms. Avant will gather more data surrounding T.E.A.C.H. and what can and cannot be done to improve recruitment and will report back at the next workgroup meeting.

The workgroup discussed the Emergency Food Box Strategy and whether it is in the best interest of the Regional Council to continue funding this strategy. The workgroup expressed their concerns with funding a strategy that was meant to be a temporary/emergency solution. The workgroup discussed the importance of having the basic needs met for children in the region, from literacy, and nutrition, to child care.

The workgroup brought their focus back to the workgroup suggestions from the workgroup meeting on July 13, 2009, and further discussed the identified gaps/needs in the region, including early literacy and oral health. The workgroup expressed the need for early literacy. A member of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, Cindi Alva, shared what their region is doing to address early literacy. The workgroup expressed the desire to ensure that there is someone available to follow-up with the families and/or to educate the families on how to effectively read with their child.

The workgroup discussed oral health. Ms. Avant informed the workgroup that the Graham/Greenlee and Gila regions are partnering to do an oral health study to assess the need in their regions. The workgroup expressed that there was not a need to do an oral health study to assess the need, but rather more information would need to be obtained in order to determine what specific services cost and what services are available. Oral health education and services were discussed.


Chair Strain requested that the workgroup spend time considering what was discussed in the workgroup and be ready to discuss further at the next workgroup meeting.

### Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Strain adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Dated this 29 day of October, 2009.

Submitted By: Edith Lee  
Administrative Assistant

Approved By:   
Chair, Jane Strain